

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/656,574 )  
 Filed: September 5, 2003 )  
 For: CONDUIT AND METHOD OF FORMING )  
 Applicant: SMITH et al. )  
 Attorney Ref: 1171/41365/Case 135 )

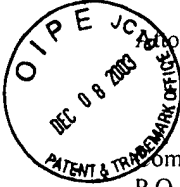
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

December 4, 2003

Date

Amy L. Mitchell

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicant is not aware of any material prior art but, in an abundance of caution and candor, Applicant submits the present Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449.

JP 2000-24111 is not in the English language, therefore, included herewith is an English translation of same.

JP5052378 is also not in the English language. It is relevant because it discloses a device that's purpose is to obtain a pipe at a low manufacturing cost by a method in which the pipe is made of a belt-like tape, which is wound spirally with its side edge doubled, and at least a part of the doubled part of the tape is adhered, so that a peripheral wall of the pipe does not attached to each other when a number of pipes are bundled.

A pipe A is formed by winding a beltlike tape T spirally. The tape T is doubled at its side edge part 1, and a doubled part 2 is welded by heat to each other. As a thickness of the doubled part 2 is larger than that of the other part, a peripheral wall 3 of the pipe A expands outside at the double part 2. Accordingly, only by bundling a number of the pipes A with the peripheral walls 3 of the adjacent pipes A contacted with each other at the doubled parts 2 where a diameter is large, a prescribed space S can be procured between the peripheral walls 3 excluding the doubled part 2. If the pipe is employed in a humidifier of a heat exchanger, a humidifying area or a heat exchanging area can be obtained widely.

JP62236724 is also not in the English language. It is relevant because it discloses a three

layer spirally wound conduit wherein the intermediate layer is a polyimide film having a coating of FEP while the inner and outer layers are metallic. After winding, the lengths of conduit are heated in a furnace until the outer surface of the FEP is molten and adheres to the outer layer. The inner layer is subsequently peeled away.

With regard to the one page printed from the Perma Pure website (<http://www.permapure.com/104.html>) regarding the "Perma Pure Inc. New PD™-series gas dryers", Applicant submits that this document discloses an in-line gas drying product. The Perma Pure dryer element is a bundle of 0.03 inch diameter Nafion tubes housed within a tubular housing. A dry purge gas passes through the housing counterflow to the sample flow through the Nafion tubes. Applicant admits that this page was publicly available at least as early as May 9, 2000. Therefore, consideration of this document is requested.

With regard to the one page printed from the Sympatex website (<http://www.sympatex.com/1questions.html>), Applicant submits that this document discloses a waterproof and breathable product for use with textiles for the clothing industry. Applicant admits that this page was publicly available at least as early as May 4, 2000. Therefore, consideration of this document is requested.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date and before the receipt of the first Office Action on the merits and constitutes a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Should the Examiner believe a fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Dec. 4, 2003

By: 

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Form PTO-1449 (Rev. 2-83)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1171/41365 Case 135		SERIAL NO. 10/656,574								
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT: Smith et al.										
				FILING DATE: September 5, 2003		GROUP Not yet assigned								
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>														
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		4	7	0	8	8	3	1						
		4	7	0	8	8	3	1	11/24/87	Elsworth et al.				
		5	9	8	3	8	9	6	11/16/99	Fukunaga et al.				
		5	2	8	4	1	6	0	02/08/94	Dryden				
		4	4	6	3	7	5	5	08/07/84	Suzuki				
		4	4	6	2	3	9	7	07/31/84	Suzuki				
		4	2	6	5	2	3	5	05/05/81	Fukunaga				
		3	8	5	6	0	5	1	12/24/74	Bain				
		4	3	3	7	8	0	0	07/06/82	Carlson et al.				
		5	2	3	3	9	9	6	08/10/93	Coleman et al.				
		4	9	6	7	7	4	4	11/06/90	Chua				
		5	0	4	2	5	0	0	08/27/91	Norlien et al.				
		6	3	9	4	1	4	5	05/28/02	Bailly				
		4	3	4	3	6	7	2	08/10/82	Kanao				
		4	8	0	8	2	0	1	02/28/89	Kertzman				
		4	0	4	8	9	9	3	09/20/77	Dobritz				
		5	4	6	1	1	2	2	10/24/95	Yilgor et al.				
		4	7	0	5	5	4	3	11/10/87	Kertzman				
		5	6	3	7	1	6	8	06/10/97	Carlson				
		5	8	4	8	2	2	3	12/08/98	Carlson				
		5	4	5	4	0	6	1	09/26/95	Carlson				
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>														
		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION	
		2	1	3	9	1	1	0					YES	NO
		2	1	3	9	1	1	0	11/07/84	Great Britain				
	20	0	0	2	4	1	1	1	01/25/00	Japan				
		5	0	5	2	3	7	8	03/02/93	Japan				
	6	2	2	3	6	7	2	4	10/16/1987	Japan				
		6	2	1	0	5	0		10/26/94	Europe				
		0	5	5	7	0	4	0	8/25/1993	Europe				
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>														
		One page off the Perma Pure Inc. website of the product brochure #104 of the New PD™-Series Gas Dryers.												
		Three pages off the SympaTex website of some of the most common questions that are asked and some technical data on the SympaTex membrane.												
		United States Patent Application Publication No.: US2002/0195104, Published on December 26, 2002, Inventor Fini et al. entitled: APPARATUS FOR INCREASING THE HUMIDIFICATION OF THE AIR STREAM BREATHED BY A PATIENT												
		United States Patent Application Publication No.: US2003/0028139, Published on February 6, 2003, Inventor Inoue; entitled: PNEUMOPERITONEUM GAS HEATING AND HUMIDIFYING APPARATUS AND DEVICE FOR INDUCING PNEUMOPERITONEUM												
EXAMINER										DATE CONSIDERED				
<b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.														

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	4	5	0	9	3	5	9	04/09/85	Gedeon et al.				
	5	5	0	1	2	1	2	03/26/96	Psaros				
	6	5	2	3	5	3	8	02/25/03	Wikefeldt				
	5	1	6	0	5	1	1	11/03/92	Lovelock				
	6	4	3	2	1	6	9	08/13/02	Kluwe et al.				
	5	6	2	0	5	0	0	04/15/97	Fukul et al.				
	4	8	7	5	9	0	8	10/24/89	Kikukawa et al.				
	4	8	4	4	7	1	9	07/04/89	Toyomoto et al.				
	4	4	6	9	4	9	5	09/04/84	Hiraizumi et al.				
	3	8	9	5	6	3	0	07/22/75	Bachman				
	3	8	9	1	5	5	6	06/24/75	Richardson et al.				
	3	7	3	5	5	5	9	05/29/73	Salemme				
	3	7	3	5	5	5	8	05/29/73	Skarstrom et al.				
	3	4	3	4	4	7	1	03/25/69	Liston				
	3	3	6	7	8	5	0	02/06/68	Johnson				
	3	3	0	7	3	3	0	03/07/67	Niedzielski et al.				
	3	3	0	3	1	0	5	02/07/67	Konikoff				
	3	2	9	2	3	4	6	12/20/66	Adams				
	3	2	4	5	2	0	6	04/12/66	Bonnet				
	3	2	2	8	8	7	7	01/11/66	Mahon				
	3	1	4	4	3	1	3	08/11/64	Pfefferle				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS													
											CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
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DATE CONSIDERED

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